

PATENT

Docket No. 1232-4532

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

E.D.
#9/A
3-6-02

Applicant(s): Hiroyuki SHINBATA Group Art Unit: 2621
Serial No.: 09/287,406 Examiner: M. CHOEBIN
Filed: April 6, 1999
For: **IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD APPARATUS AND STORAGE
MEDIUM FOR RECOGNITION OF IRRADIATION AREA**

Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

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Sir:

Technology Center 2600

In response to the Office Action dated October 24, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 10.

Please amend claims 1, 9, 12, 14, 19, 21-28.

Please add new claims 29-31.

1. (Amended) An image processing method comprising:
a step of determining a plurality of areas arranged in a predetermined direction on an image and each having a predetermined shape;
a step of calculating a secondary difference value from a plurality of primary difference values, wherein each primary difference value corresponds to a difference between density values each of which represents a respective area in said plurality of areas; and

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01 FC:103
02 FC:102

36.00 OP
552.00 OP

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01 FC:103
02 FC:102

36.00 OP
252.00 OP